suitable arrangements for door-step delivery of PDS commodities to the FPS, distribute additional items of mass consumption through the PDS network. The State Governments have taken steps for their implementation.

Strengthening and steamlining of PDS is a continuous process and regular consultation with the State Governments take place for review of the functioning of PDS. Implementation of the decisions taken in PDS Council and other Committees are continuously reviewed by the Central Government. State Governments have also been advised to set up vigilance committees at FPS level given representation to women, consumers in such committee, to reserve certain percentage of FPS for SC/ST, women and organisations run by them, intensify the checking of FPS and take stringent action against traders indulging in unfair trade practices etc.

The operatonal responsibility for implementation of PDS is that of the State Governments which include issue of ration cards, coverage of population, eligibility criteria, periodicity of availability, scale of entitlement, opening of FPSs etc.

A few State Governments have schemes to supply foodgrains/additional foodgrains to cover the poor sections of the population. Some State Governments are supplying foodgrains at specially subsidised prices to the poor, by providing additional subsidy from their own resources.

More storage and transportation facilities for vegetables and fruit growers

268. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to provide more facilities for storing and transporting Vegetables and Fruits in order to assure remunerative prices for the producers and to protect the consumers from exhorbitant prices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The National Cooperative Development Corporation Provides financial assistance for processing facilities to some Cooperative Societies for creation of storage facilities which form a component of such projects along with procurement, processing, transportation and marketing of vegetables and fruits to provide remunerative prices to producers. While no specific proposal for creation of such storage facilities is under consideration, it may be mentioned that Cooperative Institutions do intervene when market conditions so require, to protect producers and consumers interests.

Consumer Protection Council in the Country

269. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Consumer Protection Councils have been set up all over the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of these councils, Statewise; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to form the councils in the remaining areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) As per information available with the Government, all the States/UTs have constituted the State Level Consumer Protection Councils under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Recently, Central Government has also reconstituted the Central Consumer Protection Council as envisaged in the Act.